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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cal Poly To Celebrate Engineers Week Feb. 16-22

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- The campus's hillside "Poly P" will become an "E," Cal Poly engineering students will team with local professionals to fire the imaginations of area youngsters, campus groups will host an Engineering Club Fair at Farmers' Market in downtown San Luis Obispo, and a wide variety of activities on campus will serve to highlight National Engineers Week, Feb. 16-22.

Founded in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers, National Engineers Week (N.E.W.) is celebrated annually by thousands of engineers, engineering students, teachers, and leaders in government and business.

"The event not only gives us a chance to recognize the enormous contribution made by engineers to our quality of life," said Andrea McGrath-Massie, one of the two student N.E.W. commissioners, "but it's also a chance to inspire a new generation of boys and girls to consider careers in engineering, technology, math and science."

To that end, throughout the week Cal Poly's Society of Women Engineers (SWE), along with local engineering professionals, will take hands-on outreach programs to local fourth grade classrooms, where students will learn engineering design concepts by building gumdrop towers and balloon rockets. In addition, community members will have the chance to enjoy interactive engineering design activities hosted by more than a dozen campus engineering groups at an Engineering Club Fair at San Luis Obispo's Farmers' Market on Thursday (Feb. 20). Displays will also include student-built engineering projects, such as high-altitude rockets and the legendary "concrete canoe."

Current engineering students will meet with professional engineers and industry representatives at SWE's annual Evening With Industry dinner

at Embassy Suites on Feb. 22. The "Outstanding Women in Engineering and Technology" will be announced at the banquet, and more than \$20,000 in scholarships will be awarded.

The MESA (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement) Engineering Program (MEP) will

also reward student achievement by naming scores of student scholarship winners at its annual Corporate Social and Academic Recognition Banquet on Feb. 19 at the Performing Arts Center. "It's a privilege to share in the success of these students," says MEP Director David Cantu. "These individuals come from under-served populations, including low-income families that have never before sent a child to college."

On Thursday (Feb. 20), the engineering student residence hall will host a Living Learning Program Honors Banquet to recognize students with a 3.2 or better grade-point average.

Additional campus activities for engineering students during the week include:

- A Civil Engineering Career Forum featuring local professionals will be held 10 a.m.-noon in the Advanced Technology Laboratories Building on Tuesday (Feb. 18).
- T-shirt sale in the UU Plaza and Dexter Lawn, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, (Feb. 18-21).
- Free bowling and games in University Union Games Area, 6-8 p.m., Tuesday (Feb. 18).
- Engineering games in Chumash Auditorium, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Wednesday (Feb. 19).
- Free breakfast for all engineering students in the UU Plaza, 8:30-10:30 a.m., Friday (Feb. 21).
- Soda and free popcorn served daily in the UU, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

For more information contact Amy Hewes in the College of Engineering at 756-6402.1

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